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Now my pride and my honor and my joy to present another old and dear friend, Bobby Mitchell. A great super star both as an athlete and as a gentlemen. Many of the immortals enshrined here in these hallowed halls have gained their fame as great runners, some as great receivers and still others as great returns. But only Bobby Mitchell can combine all these skills in a way no one ever else has before. When he left football in 1969, only Jim Brown was his equal in combined yardage in NFL history. And no one surpassed him in character, in courage, in dignity and in integrity. He had used his skills to score 91 touchdowns to catch 521 passes and to score 8 touchdowns on kick-off returns. He first showed his God given talent at the University of Illinois when he set a world record in 70-yard low hurdles and he wanted to go to the Olympics and get a gold medal but he was persuaded to come to the NFL. Coach Paul Brown said, "He looked so good to us, he had that

tremendous speed, the ability to shift his weight without falling, to stop and to start at full speed." He was really one of the greatest moves the Cleveland Browns ever made. It didn't take Bobby Mitchell long to be noticed especially by me, because on one cold, cloudy November afternoon in Old Griffiths Stadium in Washington in 1959, Bobby Mitchell put out a display of speed, experience and motion that will never be forgotten by the Washington Redskins fans that sat in the seats that day. He ran for 232 yards, caught passes, he ran back punts, he ran back kick-offs causing one sports writers to say in his game piece the next day "yesterday afternoon Bobby Mitchell did a one-man sit in demonstration in the Washington endzone before 35,000 Redskins fans."

Three years later our prayers came true,because Bobby became a Redskin. The trade gave Bobby a chance to reach new heights. He was moved to running back from flanker where he preceded to re-write the record book as a top NFL receiver. He pulled off a unique double that has never been equalled in NFL history. He caught passes for 218 yards in one game making him the only player in NFL history to have a 200 plus game receiving Although he retired as a player in 1969, his NFL career continues He remains in the game as an important Redskin executive and in Washington as one of its most respected citizens, tirelessly and selfishly giving himself to civic efforts.

Bobby, your bust, your name and your achievements will be enshrined, honored and admired in this hallowed hall for all prosperity.

obby Mitchell

Thank you, Ed. I thank you for being a friend for some 20 years. This is an especially great day for me and my family. It doesn't seem very long ago that I was playing on the field in the City of Hot Springs, AK, my next door neighbor. And during those days, my school consisted of about 280 people and it went from the 4th to the 12th. But we had a reputation in athletics, because we took on all comers, it didn't matter about the size, or the school or the opponent. We learned early if you were going to compete in high school you had to play football, basketball baseball, run on the track team, trainer, assistant coach or we couldn't use you. There just wasn't enough of us. People have told me for three weeks now, write your speech, write your speech. How do you write a speech for this. How can a speech do justice to this Hall. Now I know that a speech is written to give you some order in your mind. I doubt very seriously if all of those great men would be in this Hall if they were men of order. They are here because this game is a game of reaction and my reaction would be more of joy, excitment, delight and wonderment. It never bothered me that I was going from a small town in Arkansas to a large university like the Un. of Illinois. However, I later found out, my sophmore year that I had to play against Ohio State and the great Woody Hayes. By the time my three years of varsity athletics was up, Coach Woody Hayes was able to say, I'm the only coach in the NFL that defends Bobby Mitchell and he will never let me forget it.

From the University of Illinois after some great days, particularly track and football with Ray Elliott and in track with Leo Johnson, Paul Brown sent a scout to talk to me about football. And at that time, I had only seen two professional football games in my life. I saw the Bears play a couple of times on tv, but I really didn't have much interest in professional football, I loved track. My ticket was to wait for the Olympics in 1960. My wife said no way, particularly when Paul was going to give me $7,000, but he induced it by saying you will be the next great flanker back. Ray Renfo will be retiring next year, of course, Ray played another 10 years, but once I signed the contract and received my bonus, Dick Gallagher, who was head of this Hall before Pete, came to me and said Mr. Brown said you will be running the ball. My wife had spent the bonus and I had to show up at the Cleveland Browns scared to death at 173 lbs. I was very fortunate to have Paul Brown. Paul Brown taught me what it means to be a gentlemen, he taught me about taking care of family and he talked to me about security. All of those things I've used in my life to bring me to this point. I was fortunate to be in the backfield with the great Jim Brown. My first four years was, therefore, very easy because with Jim Brown up the middle, Jim Brown to the left, Jim Brown to the right & occasionally a pitch out to Bobby Mitchell.

I had a great day and a sad day. I was traded to the Washington Redskins, which started a very beautiful association with Bill McPeak and some great athletes. We didn't win a lot of games, but we cared about each other. I was in a city that cared about Bobby Mitchell and as Mr. Marshall said to me, "we are taking you out of the shadow of Jim Brown and that was right, because I had some good years after that. I would like to thank Mr. Jack Kent Cooke and John Cooke for giving me the day off so I could be here today. As you go through life, particularly in this game, you go no where without family. I feel especially proud today that I have my father here, his wife, Ruthie, my mother-in-law, Susan, my brother Joe and his wife Betty, and a lady who has been with me through all of this, my wife. She has worked hours upon hours for many a year. On that day when I wanted to call it off because I didn't want to go to training camp, she talked to me about what we wanted out of this. I think of the number of times that she would walk behind so I could shine. I had the glory, she had all the stress and I just hope that sometime during this lifetime I can find the way to say to her that I think she has been a great partner. There are two people who are not here today that I miss very much. My close and dear friend whom I lost last year, Bill Martin. Bill was a man who loved skill and he loved his Redskins and he loved them even better because they were there for him. I know that Bill is watching us today and is extremely happy. I miss my mother. I wish she could be here today. God, how she would laugh. She would be extremely happy that her son has made it to this point. She never understood this game, crashing into one another, beating up on one another and she never understood why they wanted to hit her son. And she always wanted me to run fast and beat ther back. Mother I love you and I'm around and I beat them.

When it ultimately happens to you, there are hundreds of people you want to thank. Love requires this. But I can't embrace all of you today, so I am glad all of you know who you are. One of the greatest things that happened to me and the rest of the enshrinees yesterday was the luncheon where we had the opportunity to spend a couple of hours with those great men in this Hall in the past. To me they were merely people among the archives. But yesterday I stood face to face with the men who made pro football. It makes you wonder if you are worthy. I have always wanted to be recognized and respected. My enshrinement today tells me that I am recognized. The love of my family and all of my friends tells me I am respected. I thank you.